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## Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 2015

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### Pastor's Column

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#### Prayer of Dedication

On Tuesday, September 1, Bishop McElroy made his pastoral visit to our Parish. He met with Fr. Karl and me, each of us for a half-hour.

He then met with our Parish Staff for one-and-a-half hours, and then Parish Leadership for one hour.

He also joined all of us for dinner.

I gave him a personal tour of the Church, and he was very pleased and very excited about the architecture of the building.

He indicated that this will be the first Church that he will dedicate. He also told me that he was baptized at St. Thomas More Parish in the San Francisco area.

He is very much looking forward to the Dedication Mass. **We also agreed upon a day for the Dedication: Wednesday, December 16, at 2:00pm.**

**Everyone is invited, but if you plan on attending you must RSVP so that we can properly prepare for the Mass and Reception. Please call 760-758-4100 x158 or email [hennyj@stmoside.org](mailto:hennyj@stmoside.org). Let us know your name and the number of people that will be attending.**

The day is finally arriving!

As we approach our Dedication Day, I invite you to pray this Prayer of Dedication on a regular basis. It is the prayer that Bishop McElroy will pray as the altar in our Church will be anointed and consecrated:

Father in heaven,  
source of holiness and true purpose,  
it is right that we praise and glorify your name.

For today we come before you  
to dedicate to your lasting service  
this house of prayer,  
this temple of worship,  
this home in which we are nourished  
by your word and your sacraments.

Here is reflected the mystery of the Church.

The Church is fruitful,  
made holy by the blood of Christ:  
a bride made radiant with his glory,  
a virgin splendid in the wholeness of her faith,  
a mother blessed through the power of the Spirit.

The Church is holy,  
your chosen vineyard:  
its branches envelop the world,  
its tendrils, carried on the tree of the cross,  
reach up to the kingdom of heaven.

The Church is favored,  
the dwelling place of God on earth:  
a temple built of living stones,  
founded on the apostles  
with Jesus Christ its cornerstone.

The Church is exalted,  
a city set on a mountain:  
a beacon to the whole world,  
bright with the glory of the Lamb,  
and echoing the prayers of her saints.

Lord, send your Spirit from heaven  
to make this church an ever-holy place,  
and this altar a ready table for the sacrifice of Christ.

Here may the waters of baptism overwhelm the shame of sin;  
here may your people die to sin  
and live again through grace as your children.

Here may your children, gathered around your altar,  
celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb,  
and be fed at the table of Christ's word and Christ's body.

Here may the prayer, the Church's banquet,  
resound through heaven and earth  
as a plea for the world's salvation.

Here may the poor find justice,  
the victims of oppression, true freedom.

From here may the whole world,  
clothed in the dignity of the children of God,  
enter with gladness your city of peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.